



Founders

NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

PATRON: His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC, Governor of New South Wales

President's report

Vale Air Marshall Sir Thomas Anthony Rowland AB KBE DFC AFC, Governor of New South Wales 1981 – and during his term of office, Patron of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Former Presidents, Mrs Beryl Lewis, Mr Roderick Best and Mr James Donohoe, would, I am sure, join me, with all members of the Fellowship, in giving thanks for the life of this great Australian. He always showed particular interest in our organisation and I feel sure Beryl, Rod and James join with myself, and the membership, and offer sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Joy and I had a wonderful trip to Turkey and Greece. Pilgrimage was made to Gallipoli where my grandfather fell in battle, and where descendants of many, many, First Fleeters were killed. A beautiful and sacred historical site for all Australia. Troy and Ephesus were more than we expected. The Greek Island of Samos is well recommended but Athens – Oh dear, we were not impressed!!

Many of our members are concerned as to the fate of 'The Bonds of Friendship' memorial which had pride of place at Circular Quay quite close to the landing site of the First Fleeters. This memorial complements a similar one at Sally Port, Portsmouth, where many First Fleeters embarked for a new beginning. I, with many others, were horrified to learn that a site near the National Maritime Museum is under consideration for this memorial to our first pioneers! It is important that this reminder of our heritage remains within the precincts of Sydney Cove.

I was intrigued by the number of family newsletters recently, by a letter in the Sydney Morning Herald by one John Peck, inquiring as to the name of the first child born on Australian soil to parents arriving on the First Fleet. Subsequently I wrote, on behalf of our organisation, in essence, intimating that the

extensive records, held by the Fellowship, do not show any primary evidence as to the name or sex of the first born in this Colony.

That statement seemed to have opened a Pandora's Box.

The Rope – Pulley Family Newsletter, an excellent family publication, whilst giving fair publicity to this vexatious question, gives credence to the fact that the first born of First Fleeters Rope/Pulley, christened Robert, was probably the first white child conceived on Australian soil!!! Marjorie Raven, an Arndell-Dalton descendant, has published in several genealogical newsletters that Frances Hannah Clement, daughter of convict Elizabeth Dalton and John Clement seaman, Lady Penryhn, was not only a First Fleeter, but the first child born in the Colony.

Now, we cannot have it both ways. A child born on a First Fleet ship and transported to Sydney Cove is considered a First Fleeter. In regard to Frances Hannah Clement, the Fellowship, in its wisdom, has declared that child a First Fleeter, being born aboard a British ship albeit in colonial waters. If she had been born on land she would have been classed as a currency lass. Any births on board one of the First Fleet ships were recorded in London not in the new Colony.

I am usually on deck on Mondays and am pleased to welcome any members for a chat and refreshments. Recently Stephen Mutch (FF Edward Whitton) and his wife called in. Stephen, a former MLC of the State Parliament and the former Federal member for the electorate of Cook, is a fount of information on genealogy. His efforts in the retention of census information for future generations is still in the pipeline. Stephen is a great-nephew of Tom Mutch, who did incredible work in the documentation of the early settlers in the Colony.

continued page 5

INSIDE

- 2 NEWS OF MEMBERS
- 3 WHAT'S ON
- 4 FLIGHT TO EDEN
- 6 ST DAVID'S PARK HOBART
- 6 GLEBE CEMETERY EAST MAITLAND
- 6 JOSEPH TRIMBY
- 7 ST ALBANS ADVENTURE
- 7 WEB GENEALOGY
- 8 BOOK REVIEWS
- 8 MAIL BOX
- 8 NAME BARS AVAILABLE

News of Members

PM ENTHUSIASTIC FAN OF FLO

FLORENCE MADELINE TIBBETTS (nee Soden) passed away 23 February 1999 at the grand age of 103 years and seven months. She was a descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

A fourth generation Australian born at Bathurst on 27 July 1895 – one of twelve children of Mary and Albert Soden who was the son of Susannah Kable, Henry's granddaughter.

Florence was the last survivor of that large family which left many descendants. She married Jim Tibbetts and they had three sons and a daughter. Florence is pictured with Prime Minister John Howard when he visited the nursing home in 1997, she was then a young 102.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FOR PERIOD 21 APRIL 1999 TO
26 MAY 1999

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – twelve adults, six juniors and two spouse associates.

THOMAS ARNDELL + ANN FORBES +
WILLIAM DRING: Mr Hughie Wilson.

JACOB BELLETT: Miss Tamara Louise Bellette
(jun.); Miss Christine Ann Bellette (jun.); Mr
Robert John Bellette (jun.).

EDWARD GOODIN: Mr Barry Hitchcock.

THOMAS KIDNEY + JAMES MORRISBY:
Mrs Jeanette May Bland.

WILLIAM NASH: Mrs Judith Isabel Carter.

JOHN NICHOLS: Mr Kelvin Wesley Weekes.

JOHN SMALL – MARY PARKER: Mr
Raymond Bernard Gordon Speakman..

JAMES SQUIRE: Mr Owen Fitz-Gerald; Miss
Melinda Anne Fitz-Gerald (jun.); Miss Emma
Louise Fitz-Gerald (jun.); Miss Alex Jenkins
(jun.).

WILLIAM TUNKS: Mr Gary Robert Draper.

JOSEPH TUZO: Mrs Kerrie Maree Campbell;
Miss Alisa Jayne Campbell; Miss Fiona Louise
Campbell; Mr Robert Patrick Campbell

Spouse Associate of new member: Mr Patrick
John Campbell, husband of Mrs Kerrie Maree
Campbell.

Spouse Associate of earlier member: Mrs Marie
Therese Dredge, wife of Mr Garnet Victor
Dredge.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of
the following:

LLOYD JAMES CHINNOCK (#5855), passed
away 16 March 1999. Descendant of First Fleeter
John Nichols.

GRACE IDA COSTELLO (#3437), passed
away 22 March 1999, at Wahroonga Nursing
Home. Descendant of First Fleeters Henry Kable
– Susannah Holmes.

RONALD HEAP TAYLOR (#2531), passed
away 12 December 1998. Late of Epping, NSW.
Descendant of First Fleeter John Nichols.

FLORENCE MADELINE TIBBETTS (nee
Soden) passed away 23 February 1999 (see box
above).

**Closing date for
copy and pictures
July/August issue
July 23 1999**

**OFFICE HOURS
10.00am to 3.00pm
Monday to Friday**

what's *on*

SOUP & DAMPER DAY

Wednesday, 14 July

GUEST SPEAKER

Mrs Beryl Lewis, a founding member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and a Past President.

Mrs Lewis will speak on the beginnings of the Fellowship and its history.

Numbers will be limited, so please book early.

Cost: \$3.00.

Time: 11.30am.



CHAPTER MEETINGS

HUNTER VALLEY
Third Saturday of each month

NORTH COAST
1 August
Ron and Pal Benjamin
(02) 6652 7283

NORTHERN RIVERS
Third Sunday of July

TOUR OF FAIRFAX PRINTERS – CHULLORA

WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

Afterwards a tour of Olympic Complex
Homebush

Approx. cost \$20 (coach tour)

More details in later *Founders*

THE HOLIDAY FOR 2000

to

LORNE CHALET GUEST HOUSE
ON GREAT OCEAN ROAD

TUESDAY 21 MARCH –
28 MARCH 2000

The tour leaves from Spencer Street Station,
Melbourne, at 1.00pm.

BOOK YOUR OWN TRAIN SEAT

Perhaps you would like to arrive early in
Melbourne and see the sights.

Cost ex Melbourne (+ \$4 Booking Fee)
\$599 twin share
\$680 single
\$520 triple

Deposit of \$50.00
required at time of booking
preferably by end of November 1999.

President's Report continued from page 1

I was also interested to meet Roger Walter, an extremely keen historian of the early years in the Colony, and one with whom I felt a heart-mate in that, we agreed, that historical correctness should always supersede political correctness. In endeavouring to set up a folk musical heritage centre at Mamre House near St Marys, he intimated that he had come across some antagonism with regard to any success a former convict may have had in the Colony. He purchased from First Fleet House our chart on the Founders and a chart on the First Fleet ships. We wish him well in his endeavours.

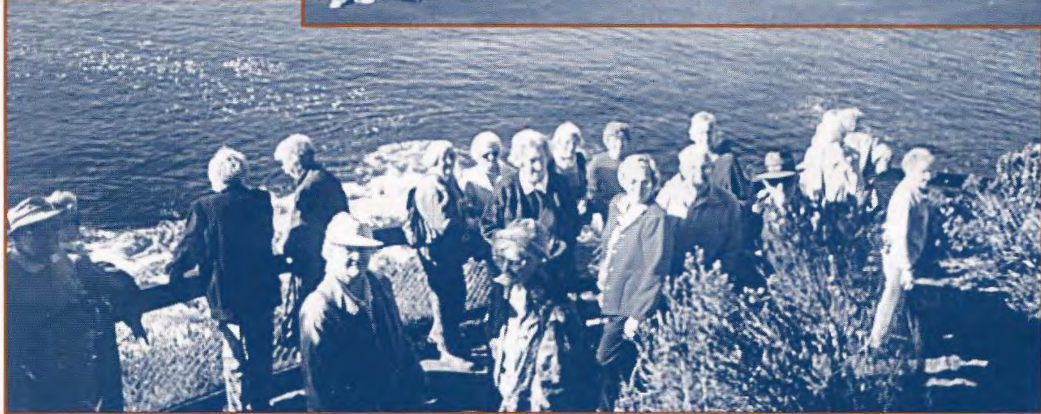
It is this time again when we all renew membership. Please, to keep our organisation viable, send in your subs at the earliest moment. Our commitments on your behalf are many and varied. We do need your interest and help. Help

by renewing membership and help if possible by aiding our endeavours at First Fleet House. An extra donation to our mortgage fund at First Fleet House, I assure you, will not go astray.

In Fellowship
PETER



FLIGHT *to* EDEN



Thirty-five members and friends joined us on our holiday trip to Eden and its surrounding districts. We had members from throughout the State as well as Roy Peck and his daughter, Kay Grice, from Tasmania. There were thirteen others who had made private bookings with their travel agents and we picked up another ten at Sutherland. Joy Cordeiro a regular traveller with us, who usually has to journey to Central in the early hours of the morning to join us, was able to wait our arrival at Wollongong to be picked up.

We travelled south stopping at Stanwell Tops for morning tea then on to Mollymook Golf Club for lunch after which we continued on through Ulladulla, Bateman's Bay, Moruya, Narooma and Bega, to arrive at our Eden holiday base, Coachman's Rest Motor Inn.

On Monday we took in the sights of Eden. We visited Boydton and Ben Boyd's lighthouse and wondered how they got the large stones which make the lighthouse to the site. We enjoyed the magnificent views of Twofold Bay. We then visited the Harris Daishowa chipmill to see a film on the mill operations, including the way the timber is obtained and the company's process in saving the timber area being destroyed by the operation and preserved for future use. We then

journeyed on to Rotary Park for lunch and a further view of Twofold Bay. After lunch we went to the Killer Whale Museum to see the skeleton of the most famous of them all, Old Tom. A mural depicting the whaling and fishing industries is displayed at the entrance to the museum. The rest of the day was spent strolling through the shopping area of Eden.

Joyce Rixon was very excited to visit a hotel at Eden that her grandfather, Jack Rixon, built and managed for many years, over one hundred years ago. Joyce was further delighted to observe that a plaque had been installed on the hotel wall in recognition of her grandfather building the place.

Tuesday we visited Bega to be shown through a cheese factory where it was explained why Bega is world famous for its products. We went to Foxglove Spire Gardens to partake of lunch and then drove to the historic village of Central Tilba. The village was founded in 1894 and we were able to step back in time as it has remained virtually unchanged since 1904. It was then back to base.

Wednesday it was to be 'South of the Border' to Victoria's Mallacoota Inlet where we joined Captain Neil and crew on MV Discovery. This took us on a leisurely cruise through the Mallacoota Lakes and into the Genoa and Wallagame rivers. Here Sea Eagles were fed and it was time for us to be fed lunch

on Discovery. Captain Neil's commentary on the history of the area and its beauty spots was most informative. After disembarking from Discovery it was time to return to Coachman's Rest. That evening a number of us visited the Eden Fishermen's Club to pay Bingo and try our luck on the 'pokies.'

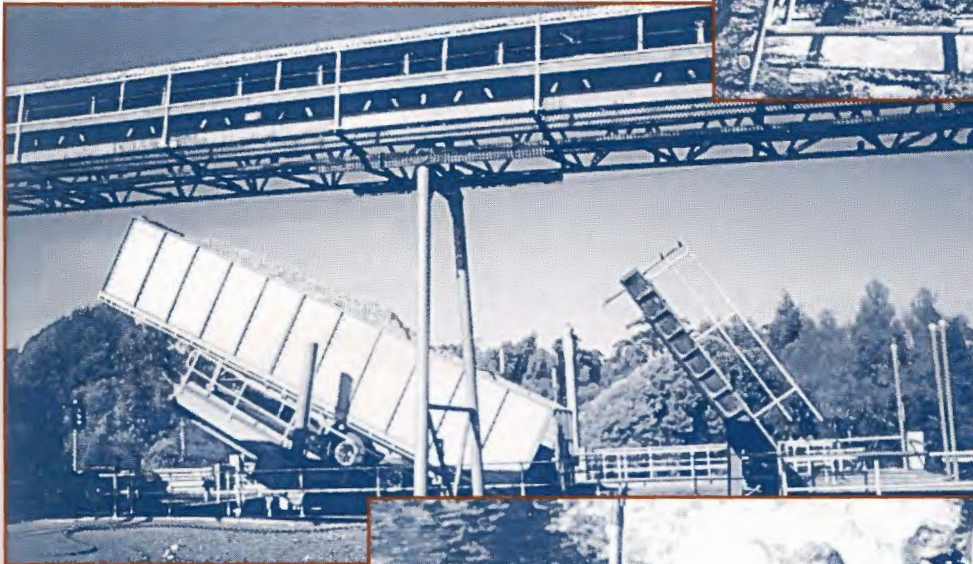
Thursday was Pambula's turn. We viewed its famous beach and then continued on to Toad Hall, a showcase of local arts and crafts. Lunch was had at Merimbula RSL Club. We then returned through the Tuna Beach Estate to the motor inn. Arriving early, we went for a walk with Rob of the Motor Inn to see the Pinnacles, a colourful view of the headland as well as a drive to see the fishing boats unload their catches.

Friday we left Eden to journey home through Kiama and Wollongong to Sydney.

A big 'thank-you' to Phyllis Selby and Bonney Savill for organising the holiday and we look forward to their next venture.

DOUGLAS OAKES

Convenor, Daytime Auxiliary Committee



ST DAVID'S PARK, HOBART

In January 1998 the Fellowship wrote to Hobart City Council for permission to install a plaque on the Memorial Wall of St David's Park for Edward Garth and Susannah (Gough) Garth.

After numerous telephone calls and follow-up correspondence as well as including submissions on plaques for Alice (Harmsworth) Stanfield and John Griffiths the council has informed us it has no objection to our request.

The dedication service is to be held on Saturday, 11 September 1999, in conjunction with the Hobart (1804) First Settlers Association. The date set has been made to enable visitors from other States time to make arrangements to attend the ceremony. Further details will be announced in later Founders.

The Fellowship's appreciation is extended to the committee of the Hobart (1804) First Settlers Association for its support and assistance in obtaining permission to have the plaques attached and being prepared to organise the dedication service.

The Association has stated it has numerous members who are descendants of these First Fleeters and it anticipates a large attendance at the service.

- It is in bad condition being covered with long grass; headstones damaged and all need resetting.

- All vaults have been extensively vandalised.

At the gateway there is a sign installed by the Maitland City Council stating a conservation project is in hand for the cemetery under the Heritage 2001 Program. The project is being funded by Maitland City council and NSW Heritage Office.

The Fellowship is conscious of the fact that to build an entrance road and to restore the headstones and vaults as well as clean up the area and erect proper fencing would be very expensive and in the minds of most councillors a problem such as this would not have a high priority. Still the same could have been said about Liverpool Memorial Park, Liverpool; St Johns Cemetery, Parramatta and others 25 years ago when we started the project of seeking the burial places of First Fleeters. Having the cemeteries and memorials restored and memorial plaques installed identifying the interred as a First Fleeter.

The Fellowship has written to the Maitland City Council for information on the Heritage 2001 Project and its progress as well as to the Maitland Historical Society for its support for the restoration of the Glebe Cemetery, East Maitland.

GLEBE CEMETERY, EAST MAITLAND

The response to the request for information of any First Fleeters believed to be buried at the Glebe Cemetery, East Maitland is much appreciated.

It appears that First Fleeter Joseph Trimby and his son, James, are buried in this cemetery. A photo of the tombstone and of the cemetery, generally, are shown.

A visit to the cemetery illustrates a number of disappointments:

- It is surrounded by a number of farms – not a bad thing – but has no road access to the area.

JOSEPH TRIMBY 1765 – 1836

Joseph Trimby (indicted as Elliott but known in the Colony as Trimby) was sentenced at Bristol on 24 November 1784 to seven years transportation for stealing a tobacco pouch and arrived here on Friendship.

He was sent to Norfolk Island in March 1790 and married Elizabeth Saney who had been shown on the 1789 embarkation list of the Lady Juliana. They had two sons, James born in 1792 and Joseph born in 1795.

The Trimbys (at this time there is no record of a wife who is believed to have died) left Norfolk Island in 1813 for Van Diemen's Land. In 1818 they are recorded as being in Newcastle NSW.

James Trimby married a Mary Egan on 8 April 1817 and he died 10 March 1827 and was buried at the family place. His body was exhumed in 1835 and reinterred in the Glebe Cemetery. Joseph Trimby married a Hannah Trueman in 1831.

First Fleeter Joseph Trimby died 25 June 1836 and was buried with his son James at the Glebe Cemetery, his age given as nearly 89, although he would certainly have been many years younger.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convener Plaques Committee



St Albans ADVENTURE

despite the inclement weather, the trip to St Albans on Sunday, 11 April 1999, was a success. We were pleased to welcome a number of folk who had not been with us before.

The bus collected passengers at Central, Cremorne, Lane Cove and Waitara then sped along the F3 freeway to the Mount White turnoff, on to Wisemans Ferry Road then a short trip to Mills Creek Park. There we had an enjoyable 'cuppa' and met Ken. Ken is a former television personality

who went to the area for a weekend holiday 26 years ago and became enamoured with the place. He subsequently moved there and has become a local historian and an unofficial guide. Ken an accomplished guitarist entertained us with music and song, singing popular Australian ballads. He explained it is possible to go for long walks in virtually unpopulated countryside and savour the natural beauty of the landscape. We travelled down to the Wisemans ferry to check that the bus could be taken past the Old Northern Road turnoff to go to St Albans Cemetery.

A visit was made to First Fleeter William Douglas's grave. The Fellowship of First Fleeters had placed a memorial plaque



on the tombstone in 1985 and had the tombstone and the headstone cleaned up and relettered as a bicentennial project in 1988.

Travelling along Settlers Road we changed from the Hawkesbury to the McDonald river. Our guide pointed out the numerous old homesteads and hotels and gave a very interesting talk on the history and people of the area. Governor Arthur Phillip visited the area soon after arriving and Governor Macquarie gave grants to emancipated convicts as their terms of service had expired.

At St Albans, due to heavy rain, lunch had to be had in the Anglican church hall instead of the park. We were again entertained by Ken's music and song while having lunch.

After lunch we travelled back along Settlers Road to the ferry but the traffic queue was so long we returned by Wisemans Ferry Road to the F3 and eventually to Sydney.

A big 'thank-you' to Joy Pankhurst for organising the day.



WEB GENEALOGY

Searching for genealogical information can often require much research and, if access to information is hard to come by, be frustrating.

A new source of data which may be useful is now available on the internet. According to a recent *Sydney Morning Herald* article the Mormon Church has launched a new website providing access to its family history database.

The article states that although the site consists mainly of names from the USA and British Isles, there are also 500,000 Australian names in its International Genealogical Index. People can also submit information to the site about their family history, which will allow it to expand even further.

Don't be surprised if you have trouble logging on as it is slow to use from Australia and on one day following its launch 100 million people worldwide tried to access the site, causing a meltdown.

Reach this site at www.familysearch.org



book reviews

CONVICT FAMILIES THAT MADE AUSTRALIA. VOL. I.

Dr C.J. Smee

We are indebted to Dr Craig Smee for his donation of this book to the Fellowship library. It contains a mini-profile of 250 convicts, their wives, children and grandchildren covering the years 1821 to 1830. A second volume is envisaged to bring convict arrivals up to 1840.

In his preface Dr Smee writes 'there can be no doubting the importance of the convicts to Australia. In a very real sense they are the 'raison d'être' for the very existence of Australia as we have come to know it today. The convicts' role in founding, settling and developing Australia is fundamental to any understanding of its history, politics and culture. In spite of this, though, as the years pass and their influence is diluted by the subsequent waves and movements of peoples and imperatives upon Australia, the convicts are in danger; at worst being forgotten altogether, or at best, of being reinterpreted in ways which have no foundations in the reality of convict history and experience.'

How true this is – may I say that Dr Smee has many kindred spirits within our Fellowship. He goes on record that Governor Macquarie was reputed to remark that there were two classes of persons in the Colony – those who were convicts and those who should have been convicts!!

A number of well-known First Fleet names do appear in this book and Dr Craig Smee is to be congratulated for yet another volume on the early pioneers of our nation.

If you have any information on convict arrivals 1831-1840 send it to Dr C.J. Smee, PO Box 1011 Dickson ACT 2602.

The first volume is available from the above address for \$25.00 plus postage NSW \$5.00, Vic and Qld \$6.00, SA and NT \$7.00, WA and Tas \$8.00.

An order form was enclosed in the previous issue of Founders.

RELUCTANT REBEL. LT.COL. GEORGE JOHNSTON 1764-1823

Geoffrey Lemcke

Set against the background of events in the Colony during its earliest years, this is the story of Lieutenant George Johnston, the Scottish born soldier who played a significant role in the history and development of New South Wales. The author has bequeathed to us an intriguing, well-documented and intensely interesting account of the life and times of this famous First Fleeter.

In his preface, Geoffrey Lemcke notes that valuable insights into George Johnston's life should have been available because he kept diaries for most of the thirty-five years he spent in the Colony. But the documents consisting of three volumes of diaries and sixty-nine letters from his patron, the Duke of Northumberland, were deliberately destroyed. This was thought to have been done by some family members in the hope that their great-grandfather's marital (or more precisely non-marital) status to Esther Abrahams, First Fleet Jewish convict, could be hidden. A grievous loss to Australian history, but none the less the author has produced a volume which all Johnston descendants, or indeed, all who have a deep and abiding interest in our nation's history and heritage should have on their bookshelves. I commend this book to you.

We are indebted to Mr Lemcke for his donation of the volume to the Fellowship library.

Copies are available from: Mr Geoffrey Lemcke, 15 Fourth Avenue, Willoughby NSW 2068, at a cost of \$25.00 postage included.

May I say that you will not be disappointed.

P. G. CHRISTIAN

mail box

Margaret Kennedy, a member of Richmond – Tweed Family History Society, has recently started tracing her family tree. She would be appreciative of any information on John Martin and/or John Randall, both First Fleeters on board Alexander. 1 Catherine Crescent, Ballina 2478. Email: mrko7@hotmail.com

NAME BARS FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS (with F.F.F. logo)

Cost:

Member's name Plus	
One First Fleeter Name	\$10.00
Two First Fleeter Names	\$11.00
(\$1.00 for each First Fleeter name)	
Spouse Name Bar with	
just the one name	\$9.00
Member's badge	\$5.00

Opinions expressed herein are those of the article authors and correspondents and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, nor the views of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to omit any material considered unsuitable for publication. Space limitations may result in some material being held over to another issue. RON MAGUIRE, Hon. Editor

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